

ISTITUTO PIA SOCIETÀ
FIGLIE DI S. PAOLO
CASA GENERALIZIA
Via S. Giovanni Eudes, 25
00163 Roma
Tel. 06.661 3039 - Fax 06.661 57 208



Dearest Sisters,

We received the news that today, at 11:35 a.m. (local time), one of the members of our Cidade Regina community, São Paulo, Brazil, unexpectedly passed away due to a heart attack:

LOPES EVERILDA – SR. MARIA VICENTINA
born in Lages (Pouso Redondo, S.C.), Brazil, on 17 October 1925.

Sr. Vicentina left us silently and serenely, without disturbing anyone, continually expressing her thanks to the nurses who had been taking care of her for a long time. This was the style of her whole life, which was characterized by commitment and hard work lived in a spirit of humility, hiddenness and great fervor, offering every instant of her day so that the Gospel might race ahead, bringing its message of joy and hope to all.

Sr. Vicentina entered the Congregation in the community of Porto Alegre on the Feast of the Annunciation, 25 March 1942, at the age of seventeen. After a period of time spreading the Word of God to families and businesses, she made her novitiate in São Paulo, concluding it with her first profession on 17 February 1946. As a young professed, she continued the diffusion apostolate and also pastoral work for vocations with deep fervor in the dioceses of Porto Alegre, São Paulo, Salvador and Belo Horizonte.

Sr. Vicentina's profound desire for total self-donation to the Lord led her to welcome the call to missionary life outside the borders of her own country. Thus, in 1963, she left for Africa. She was sent first to Lubumbashi in the Congo, where she learned French and grew to love the local people, who were very thirsty for God. Four years later, on 18 February 1967, she was called, together with Sr. Giuseppa Panarello and Sr. Teresa Ramos, to open our first Mozambican community in Beira. It was a new beginning for Sr. Vicentina, but she was sustained by her conviction that the Pauline apostolate was valued by the Mozambican authorities, who considered it to be an irreplaceable support to the moral and cultural progress of the nation. In Beira, she helped to disseminate books in Portuguese, especially the Gospel, the catechism and prayer books. In 1968, the small community wrote: "In spite of the inevitable difficulties, we are welcomed everywhere with great warmth, collaboration and admiration for this new form of apostolate. In this time, diffusion in the schools has yielded good results thanks to the collaboration of the principals and teachers."

But because of her fragile health, Sr. Vicentina was obliged to return to Brazil in 1972 and continue the Pauline mission in her own land. There, she dedicated herself with great love and generosity to diffusion of the Word of God in Niteroi, Fortaleza and São Paulo. Following this, she worked for about 10 years in the technical apostolate in Cidade Regina (São Paulo), after which she was transferred to Curitiba to once again carry out the diffusion apostolate and also small community services compatible with her failing health, which required particular attention.

In 2013, Sr. Vicentina was reassigned to the Cidade Regina community to receive increased health care. Although she spent most of her time making rosaries, her primary apostolate was that of prayer and suffering. Her spine was so severely curved that it was almost impossible for her to raise her head, but in spite of this she continued to be a serene presence among the sisters, always ready to serve them in the small ways possible to her. She was gradually obliged to spend more and more time in bed, which became the altar on which she offered her life for the salvation of everyone, and especially for vocations and the Pauline mission.

We thank this dear sister for sowing the peace and fragrance of God wherever she went and for bringing the Gospel of love to so many families. We are sure that her sufferings, activities and prayers served to bring to completion the journey assigned to her by the Lord.

Affectionately,

Rome, 16 April 2020


Sr. Anna Maria Parenzan